to the Prime Minister, requested *inter-alia* for declaration of Inchampalli & Polavaram projects as National Projects. There is no proposal to declare any irrigation/multipurpose project as a National Project.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh

301. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared Srisailam Left Bank Canal, Pulichintala Diversion and Bhima Lift Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka was consulted before giving such clearance;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that clearance given for these projects will affect the interest of Karnataka;

(d) whether there is any demand from Karnataka to withdraw the clearance; and

(e) if so, the decision, if any, taken, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: (a) The Pulichintala and Bhima Lift Schemes were found to be acceptable by the Advisory Committee on irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects on 3.4.1996 subject to certain observations which are yet to be complied by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As such these projects have not so far qualified for consideration for investment clearance by the Planning Commission. The Srisailam Left Bank Canal Project was sent back to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in August, 1986 for establishing water availability on a long term basis. Compliance from State Government is awaited.

(b) to (e) The Chief Minister, Karnataka has *vide* his letter dated 6.1.2001 asked the Central Government to withdraw the clearance given to the above projects. Since the Pulichintala and Bhima Lift Schemes have been proposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh

against savings in committed utilization in other projects and thereby the total utilization remaining within the allocation made to Andhra Pradesh by Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal, a review of the consideration of these projects by the Advisory Committee does not seem to be necessary.

Jala Samvardhana Programme in Karnataka

302. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have objected to Jala Samvardhana Programme desilt tanks in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the personnel of Ministry of Water Resources inspected the tanks and examined the aspects whether tank's restoration will affect the flow of the Cauvery; and

(d) whether Government will allow Karnataka to carry out desiltation of tanks in the Cauvery basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal through its Interim Order dated 25.6.1991 has directed the State of Karnataka not to increase its area under irrigation by the waters of river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lakh acres. This area includes an area of 2.93 lakh acres under minor irrigation. The Government of Karnataka can implement any project in Cauvery basin which envisages addition to the existing irrigated area in the basin either with the consent of the co-basin States of with the specific approval of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.